

Are Severe School Exams Upsetting the Minds Of Child Students?

**Amazing Record of Suicides
During Past Few Weeks
Prompts the Question**

**Dr. ETINGER, Superintendent of Schools, Says
No—Puts Blame on Heredity, Home Conditions
and Natural Morbidity of Disposition.**

**Dr. WARREN, of the Save-a-Life League, Says Yes—
Cites Record, and Finds Reason in Fear of Ex-
aminations and Reprimands.**

By Fay Stevenson.

ARE child suicides in America becoming as prevalent as those in Germany?

During 1920, the Rev. Harry M. Warren, President and General Director of the Save-a-Life League, announced that 707 children had committed suicide, the boys averaging fifteen and the girls fourteen to sixteen.

Since the first of this year the newspapers have been full of child suicides, especially girls and boys who are in their teens and claim that they are tired of school. From May 24 to May 28, just four days, five girls attempted suicide, two succeeding.

Flora Morina, fourteen, freshman at Barrington High School in Newark, killed herself immediately after having been scolded for irregular attendance. She shot herself with a short-barreled rifle. "Because I was disgusted with school," she whispered to her mother bent over her.

Pearl Kluger, sixteen, of No. 1145 41st Street, Brooklyn, attempted suicide by shooting herself after she had failed in her examination at school.

Fearful that she would fail to pass her junior high school examinations, Helen Greenwald, thirteen, tried to kill herself by taking iodine at her home, No. 235 West 113th street. She had swallowed none of the poison but turned her mouth severely. Helen told her mother and sisters many times she was afraid she would not pass her examinations.

Virginia Sleson, seventeen, jumped to her death from a window in the Junior High School at Oceanside, L. I. Before her friends could save her she had climbed to a radiator and thrown herself out the window.

Catherine Angley, fourteen, of No. 245 First Avenue, was behind in her studies and swallowed poison. Later she reported, called a neighbor and was saved at the Harlem Hospital.

Three months before this, Stella Trana, of No. 275 Summer Avenue, Newark, killed herself when she failed to pass her mid-year examinations at the Summer Avenue school. Stella was fourteen.

A number of boys have also taken their lives because of overstudy. Heading the list was Cadet Corporal Denis B. Totten of Milford, who killed himself at West Point because he failed in his examinations. Joseph Chesagetti, thirteen, of Staten Island, committed suicide by drinking iodine because he could not go to school and work too. Richard Patton, fifteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., committed suicide by hanging himself with a necktie to his bedpost because he hated study. Just last week Leopold Sleson, thirteen, of No. 315 Wayne Street, Highland Park, N. J., hanged himself because of overstudy. And this week Walter Karl, fifteen, attempted suicide at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street, Brooklyn, because the marks on his report card were poor. Walter was a student at P. S. No. 114.

What is the cause of all these child suicides and school troubles? Dr. William L. Ettinger, Superintendent of Schools, "Is the course too rigid?"

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

The Jarr Family

By Roy L. McCardell

"PAPA, what is Fourth of July for?" asked the little Jarr boy.

"It's a day for everybody to lay off and have a good time except your poor old dad. He has to go down town and work because he is the human chattel of an old hunk that hasn't any more patriotism than a woodpecker."

"Now, papa, you shouldn't talk that way to the children!" said Mrs. Jarr, who had come into the room just as the little boy had asked the question. "You know you don't have to work on the Fourth of July!"

"Wouldn't you fight for his country, now?" asked the little boy.

"I was too young for the Civil War," said Mr. Jarr hastily, "and when the last war I volunteered but they wouldn't take me!"

"Well, there was a war with the Spaniards, wasn't there?" asked Master Jarr, who had a splendid memory to amuse people with.

"There was, but your papa couldn't go because he didn't belong to any soldier company," explained Mr. Jarr. "He would have gone and fought for his country, but he wasn't needed in that war either."

"And would you have died for your country like George Washington and Christopher Columbus did?" asked the little boy.

"With pleasure," said Mr. Jarr. "And now that will do, Willie. Papa wants to read the paper before he goes downtown."

"And would you have gone out with us to the cemetery on Decoration Day and decorated your graves?" Willie asked. "I don't know, but I would like to go to the cemetery with my granddaddy and decorate graves," said the boy.

"I will have a grave to decorate if you don't stop asking me so many questions," cried Mr. Jarr. "The child is only asking for information," said Mrs. Jarr. "I think his questions show that he has a brilliant mind for his age. Mamma will answer your questions, Willie."

"You're a lady, mamma. You can't go to war and kill people with guns, or be a burglar like men can," said Willie, with true masculine scorn, when it came to the discussion of exclusive male privileges.

"I'm glad of it," said Mrs. Jarr. "But being able to go to war when he grows up should not make my little boy speak so badly to his mamma."

"Well, tell me what Fourth of July is for, now?"

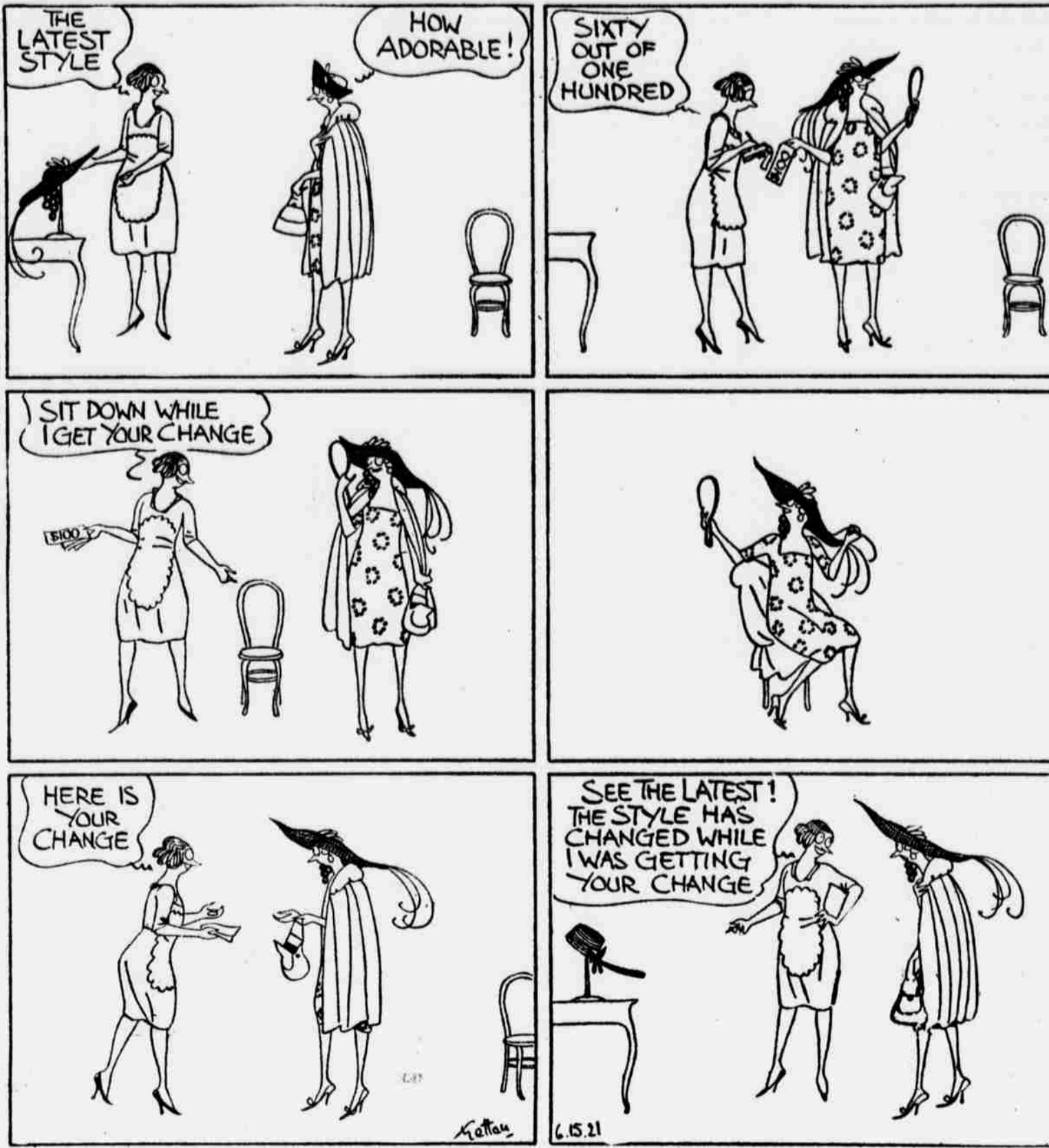
"It's a day dedicated to liberty by patriots the people who go to the baseball games on holidays," asked the boy, "and why do they call it Fourth of July?"

"Because," because," interposed Mr. Jarr. "Oh, better, ask Thomas Edison if your mother can't tell you."

DAILY MAGAZINE

Can You Beat It!

By Maurice Ketten



What to Do Until The Doctor Comes

By Charlotte C. West, M. D.

Copyright, 1921, by The Press Publishing Co., (The New York Evening World.)

When Baby Has Colic.

THE condition of colic—a spasm of the muscular canal—is one of the commonest in babyhood. The infant utters a shrill shriek as he is suddenly seized with an acute attack of intestinal pain, draws up his legs, kicks and struggles vehemently in accordance with his age and strength.

The character of the food is undoubtedly at the root of these attacks. Not always—intestinal worms may be present and cause colic. Fermentation of sugar giving rise to gaseous distention of the intestines is, however, the usual cause. The stools are thin and greenish, small very acid and inflame the skin.

Infants that suffer from repeated attacks of colic should have the sugar withdrawn from their feedings, at least temporarily. If unsweetened milk is refused, saccharine tablets, I grain to 1 pint of food, may be employed. Should constipation exist, we are able to both sweeten the food and combat the constipation with a teaspoonful of malt extract to each bottle of feeding.

The stools may, on the other hand, indicate that the infant is not digesting the protein or fats, undigested curds being very prominent. The child is being overfed and fed irregularly. In colicky, breast-fed infants the milk may not have assumed a normal character.

The immediate treatment of colic is plain—RELIEVE THE SPASM. This is done by injecting a warm enema of one pint of soapy water. Camomile tea is excellent for this purpose as it is extremely soothing—an ounce of U. S. man camomile flowers are steeped in 1 to 2 pints of boiling water for fifteen minutes, and slowly injected into the infant's bowels at a temperature of 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Meanwhile positions of flexed meal or the camomile flowers are prepared and applied to the abdomen as soon as the offending matter is washed out of the bowels. Massage of the abdomen with warm sweet oil is also very soothing.

Huffman's Anodyne is a good remedy to employ for the relief of pain in the first months of life. The dose at two months of age is one drop; from two to four months, 2 drops; from four to six months, 3 drops; at twelve months, 4 drops. Give in a spoonful of boiled, cooled water.

Of course, the child's diet must be carefully gone over and changes made in accordance with the character of the stools.

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the mouth because he heard a similar description of the way his uncle killed himself. Then there was the case of Henry Wadsworth Smith, thirteen, of Ridgewood, N. J., who hanged himself because he was not invited to a wedding. And last week a young girl, Mary, fourteen, of No. 214 Catherine Street, South Amboy, ate a tablet of cyanide of potassium because her father and mother are separated.

"There are just two things that are back of so many child suicides," Rev. Dr. Harry M. Warren of the Save-a-Life League told me at his home, No. 108 West 77th Street. "For examinations and over-sensitiveness on the part of the child, as far as being reprimanded or hearing distressing stories."

Dr. Warren receives many would-be suicides at his home every week. He talks to them, prays for them and tries to make them see that no matter what, life is worth while. He answers personally over 1,000 letters a year from all over the country and has personally saved many lives by his kind words and convincing manner.

"I think the present system of examinations in the higher grades of the grammar schools, the high schools and colleges is barbarous," Dr. Warren told me. "Of course a timid or nervous child cannot stand the shock. Children should be passed by the year's work, not on one cruel examination. Until we change this system of terrifying children at examination time, we may expect just such sad cases of suicide or attempted suicide as have come before us this spring."

"Parents should be careful in the way they treat their children," Dr. Warren continued. "Sometimes even the child who is inclined to be nervous has brooded over its punishment or the humiliation before the year's work is over. Children should never be scolded or whipped before other members of the family or other children their own age."

"A little tact and power to understand the child brain upon the part of the parent might save many a child hours of mental anguish and even the thought of self-destruction," concluded Dr. Warren. "And as far as examinations are concerned, final affairs which terrify the child mind are brutal."

"There is no reason in the world why a pupil should commit suicide," said Dr. Ettinger. "School life today is not nearly as hard as in the days of the little red school house. We have graded schools, plenty of recreation, gymnasium work, folk dancing, only thirty and forty minute recitation periods for one subject, and no child is ever punished for poor grades. We have vocational schools, special classes for mentally deficient and those who are behind. No one is rushed, no one is pushed and there are always plenty of teachers who remain every afternoon to help the pupil who needs attention."

"But what do you think of so many suicides?" I asked. "Why do so many girls and boys say they are tired of life because of school and examinations?"

"Many child suicides come from neurotic parents, from home conditions and improper environment," declared Dr. Ettinger. "I do not think the school or the examinations are to blame of it all. Some children are naturally morbid and moody and they would take their lives if left alone on a farm. They naturally must blame something so they cry 'school.'"

"Then there is just one thing I think we need in the schools," concluded Dr. Ettinger, "and that is a larger corps of visiting teachers. In Greater New York we have but fourteen of these teachers. We need more. If young women could go to these moody, whimsical children's homes and find out home conditions and talk to the parents, it is possible that many children's lives would be bettered. But I do not think the actual school work is lack of child suicides. School life was never as pleasant and interesting as in the present day."

A number of child suicides have also occurred because children have been reprimanded or because they are temperamental. In March of this year Joseph Trichylich, five, of Detroit, Mich., shot himself because his mother reprimanded him for getting his feet wet. Last year a youngster of five named Partridge, who lived up State, shot himself in the